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1. (PROPOSED) Apparatus comprising:

a networking router architecture comprising

a first component configured to perform a route look-up to identify a proxy egress port by which a data packet is to leave the first component, to send an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) request for a hardware address of an egress port by which the data packet is to leave [[a]] the networking router architecture to reach [[the]] a receiver, to receive a response to the ARP request that includes the hardware address of the egress port, and to label the data packet with information identifying the hardware address of the egress port;

a second component comprising the egress port and configured to receive the data packet; and

an intermediate component bridging the first component and the second component and acting as a transparent bridge to forward the ARP request and the labeled data packet based on the hardware address of the egress port,

wherein the receiver is outside of the networking router architecture.

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2.   (PROPOSED)   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the
networking router architecture further ~~comprising~~ comprises
additional intermediate components bridging the first component
and the second component to forward the data.

12.   (PROPOSED)   A method comprising:

performing a lookup in a routing table to determine a proxy
egress port by which data is to leave a component;

sending a request for an address of an egress component by
which the data is to leave a networking router architecture to
reach a receiver, wherein the receiver is outside of the
networking router architecture;

receiving a reply to the request, the reply including the
address of the egress component;

labeling the data with the address to identify the egress
component; and

forwarding the data, based on the address, through an
intermediate component acting as a transparent bridge to the
egress component,

wherein the networking router architecture comprises the
intermediate component and the egress component.

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13.   (PROPOSED)   The method of claim 12 wherein:

the data is forwarded through additional intermediate

components without a routing table look up; and

the networking router architecture further comprises the

additional intermediate components.

18.   (PROPOSED)   An article comprising one or more machine-

readable media, the one or more machine-readable media encoded

with machine-executable instructions, the machine-executable

instructions for causing one or more machines to:

perform a look up in a routing table to determine a proxy

egress port by which data is to leave the one or more machines;

send a request for a media access control (MAC) address of

an egress component by which the data is to leave a networking

router architecture to reach a receiver, wherein the receiver is

outside of the networking router architecture;

receive a reply to the request, the reply including the MAC

address of the egress component;

label the data with the MAC address of the egress

component; and

forward the data, based on the MAC address, through an

intermediate component acting as a transparent bridge to the

egress component,

wherein the networking router architecture comprises the

intermediate component and the egress component.

22.   (PROPOSED) The article of claim 13, wherein the

machine-executable instructions are further for causing the one

or more machines to:

encapsulate a packet comprising the data with the MAC

address of the ~~second~~ egress component; and

forward the encapsulated packet to the egress component

through the intermediate component without a routing table look-

up.

24.   (PROPOSED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the

~~apparatus~~ networking router architecture comprises a modularized

network element that includes the first component, the second

component, and the intermediate component, the position of the

components in the network element changing based on a path of

the data.

26.   (PROPOSED) The method of claim 12 wherein:

~~performing the lookup to determine the path comprises~~

~~performing the lookup to determine the path in~~ the networking

router architecture comprises a modularized network element that

includes the egress component and the intermediate

component[[,]] ; and

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wherein the position of the components in the network
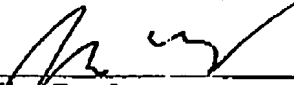
element changes based on the path.

28. (PROPOSED) The article of claim, wherein:

the ~~machine executable instructions are further for causing~~

~~the one or more machines to:~~

~~perform the look up to determine the path in~~ networking

router architecture comprises a modularized network element that

includes the egress component and the intermediate

component[[,]] ; and

~~wherein~~ the position of the components in the network

element changes based on the path.

Should any questions or concerns arise, Applicant

respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone applicant's

representative at (858) 678-4346.

Respectfully submitted,

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